



Richard O'Malley, Ed.D., Superintendent  
319 South Dargan Street \* Florence, South Carolina 29506  
Telephone (843) 673.1106 www.f1s.org

October 5, 2018

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd  
Chief Clerk/Administrator  
The Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29210



Re: Duke Energy Electric Transportation Pilot

Dear Ms. Boyd:

It is my pleasure as Superintendent of Florence 1 Schools to write a letter of support for the Electric Transportation Pilot proposed by Duke Energy. The pilot's purpose is to study the impact electric vehicles will have on the electric grid. Part of the pilot includes funding the replacement of older diesel school buses with new, zero-emission electric school buses. As an interested participant in such a pilot, we see the effort as an excellent opportunity to put our "Students First".

Florence District One is located in Florence County and is the state's 15<sup>th</sup> largest school district. Its 24 schools serve 16,315 students across an area of 284 square miles. Every day, Florence 1 transports 12,000 students on 109 diesel school buses. Unfortunately, studies have shown that older diesel buses may pose a health hazard to students and especially those living with asthma.

The proposal offers \$125,000 rebates to replace older diesel buses with zero emission electric school buses and associated infrastructure. In addition, if the proposal is passed in a timely manner, there may be additional funding from the pending Volkswagen Settlement. Combining these two funding opportunities is very important to us.

Moreover, this pilot could serve as an educational opportunity for our students. The electric grid is changing and becoming more distributed. The buses within the proposed pilot will become part of that changing grid because they will be fitted with advanced vehicle to grid technologies. Exposing our students

to this effort and letting them become part of the pilot makes us an enthusiastic supporter. We hope you approve the proposal as submitted.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me for more information. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Malley', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Richard O'Malley, Ed.D.